

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:MDSTERNBERG:SKG

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTONJR

L:GHALDRICH

S/S-O: SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 225441

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR AND CHARGE FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US IS EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: TEL AVIV 6187

1. FOR TEL AVIV. YOUR CALL ON RABIN HAS BEEN MOST PRODUCTIVE. RABIN'S SUGGESTION FOR A COOLING-OFF PERIOD AND A SUBSEQUENT MEETING TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE GULF OF SUEZ PROBLEM IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY IS VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES WE HAD BEEN THINKING. BUT THERE IS ONE OUTSTANDING PROBLEM ON WHICH WE WILL NEED TO OBTAIN ISRAELI COOPERATION IN ACCEPTING RABIN'S PROPOSAL.

2. WE, AS THE ISRAELIS, WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF DEADLINES AND THE CONSTANT POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, RABIN HAS BEEN MISINFORMED REGARDING AMOCO'S SEPTEMBER 21 DRILLING DEADLINE. THE DECEMBER 1974 EGYPTIAN GAZETTE ENTRY WHICH HE QUOTED TO YOU IS NOT

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APPLICABLE TO SITE 304.1. WE HAVE VERIFIED THAT AMOCO MUST

BEGIN DRILLING AT SITE 304.1 BY SEPTEMBER 21 OR FACE A REAL CONTRACTUAL DISPUTE WITH EGYPT IN WHICH, WE ARE SATISFIED, IT RUNS A SERIOUS RISK OF LOSING THE CONCESSION AREA. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN RABIN'S COOPERATION IN PREVENTING ISRAELI INTERFERENCE

WITH AMOCO OPERATIONS AT SITE 304.1, WHICH SHOULD COMMENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. RABIN SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE WOULD NOT VIEW SUCH COOPERATION AS PREJUDICING ISRAEL'S LEGAL POSITION OR PREJUDGING THE OUTCOME OF ANY TALKS WE WANT TO HAVE WITH ISRAEL TO WORK OUT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO OIL OPERATIONS IN THE GULF.

3. PLEASE APPROACH RABIN ON AN URGENT BASIS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

-- CONVEY TO HIM MY APPRECIATION FOR THE PRACTICAL APPROACH HE HAS MADE ON THE GULF OF SUEZ PROBLEM, AND TELL HIM THAT WE AGREE TO A MEETING AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE IN SEPTEMBER AT WHICH WE COULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND HOPEFULLY TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS A RAPID PRACTICAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON SINCE WE COULD MORE EASILY CONSULT WITH THE AMOCO PEOPLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON WHEN ITS REPRESENTATIVES COULD MEET WITH US ON THE PROBLEM

-- WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE A BRIEF COOLING-OFF PERIOD, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE PROBLEM OF THE EXPIRATION DATE OF AMOCO'S CONCESSION WILL NOT GO AWAY. THE INFORMATION FROM THE DECEMBER 1974 EGYPTIAN GAZETTE IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE CONCESSION IN WHICH SITE 304.1 IS LOCATED. THE 1974 LANGUAGE COVERS THE SOUTH BELAYIM AND SOUTH GHARA CONCESSIONS, GRANTED BY EGYPT IN THAT YEAR. SITE 304.1, IN WHICH AMOCO MUST DRILL BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21 OR RISK LOSING ITS CONCESSION, IS LOCATED IN THE PRE-1967 GULF OF SUEZ CONCESSION AND WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THAT LANGUAGE.

--WE WOULD LIKE YOUR COOPERATION IN PREVENTING ANY INCIDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH AMOCO'S DRILLING AT SITE 304.1. WE WOULD NOT VIEW SUCH COOPERATION AS PREJUDICING EITHER ISRAEL'S LEGAL POSITION OR PREJUDGING THE MODUS OPERANDI

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WE HOPE TO WORK OUT WITH YOU. RATHER, WE WOULD SEE THIS COOPERATION AS A GESTURE TO HELP RESOLVE THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM AMOCO FACES SO THAT WE CAN HAVE THAT COOLING-OFF PERIOD WE BOTH DESIRE.

-- IN THE MEANWHILE, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO CONTINUE TO DOWNPLAY THE SITUATION PUBLICLY, BUT OBVIOUSLY THIS WILL REQUIRE EQUALLY FIRM EFFORTS BY ISRAEL TO PREVENT FURTHER PUBLICITY OF THE KIND THAT HAS APPEARED IN RECENT

DAYS.

4. FOR CAIRO. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE EGYPTIANS URGENTLY THAT WE ARE NOW ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THIS MATTER AND THAT THERE ARE SOME PROSPECTS FOR WORKING OUT AT LEAST THE MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. WE

ASK THAT EGYPT GIVE US THE CHANCE TO CARRY OUT OUR DISCUSSIONS BY AVOIDING ANY MOVEMENTS EAST OF THE SO-CALLED MEDIAN LINE IN THE GULF EXCEPT, OF COURSE, INTO THOSE PORTIONS OF NORMALLY OPERATING OIL FIELDS LOCATED EAST OF LINE, AND BY KEEPING NAVAL VESSELS OUT OF AREA. KISSINGER

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